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Letter dated 20 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention reports concerning the sale by auction in the Turkish occupied part of Cyprus of thousands of volumes of Greek books that are now under storage by the illegal authorities there. According to these reports, there are more than 70,000 volumes and their weight exceeds 70 tons. The books, which come from public libraries and private collections from the three major Turkish-occupied towns, namely Famagusta, Kyrenia and Morphou, were left over in the Turkish-occupied area of Cyprus after the 1974 Turkish invasion of the island.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus strongly protests such unlawful acts on the part of the illegal Turkish Cypriot regime, especially at this crucial stage of developments on the Cyprus problem, with the President of the Republic of Cyprus meeting with the Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Denktaş in an effort to promote a solution to the Cyprus problem. Such actions on the part of the illegal Turkish Cypriot regime, especially at a time when consultations called for by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 939 (1994) are in process, not only are not conducive to confidence-building, but also reveal further the partitionist objectives of the Turkish Cypriot leadership.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus requests the Secretary-General to intervene with the Turkish Cypriot leadership so that the illegal auction be cancelled and the books be returned to the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 51, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alecos H. SHAMBOS
Permanent Representative